



## Alabama Commission on Higher Education

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To: The Honorable Bob Riley, Governor, State of Alabama  
Members of the Alabama Legislature

We are pleased to transmit herewith the recommendations for a Unified Higher Education Budget for Fiscal Year 2003-2004.

These recommendations are made as part of our lengthy review of higher education funding processes in Alabama. The very nature of funding public activities creates constant change and we are committed to continuing this review to ensure that Alabama's citizens receive a proper return for their investment in public education.

We ask for your continued support in our efforts to bring an increased level of adequacy and accountability to public higher education finance. Only through concerted efforts will we successfully address the challenges that face us.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael E. Malone, Ph. D.  
Executive Director

**RECOMMENDATION FROM THE ALABAMA COMMISSION  
ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN SUPPORT OF THE UNIFIED  
BUDGET RECOMMENDATION FOR 2003-04**

As we continue into the new millennium, the higher education community is as unified as it has ever been in meeting the many challenges the current environment presents. This unity has been enhanced through new leadership at the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education. New leadership has stressed the need for more stable funding, more accountability and continued collaboration with the entire education and corporate communities. The vehicle for stating higher education's funding needs is the statutorily required Unified Budget Recommendation (UBR). Submitted annually to the Executive and Legislative branches of government, the UBR is a data-rich source of information depicting the truest funding needs of each public institution of higher learning in the state.

Many hundreds of hours of work go into its preparation. Unfortunately, little if any attention is paid to the UBR once the appropriation process begins. This should change! To this end, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education with the submission of the 2003-2004 UBR strongly urges the Governor and the Legislature to use the Unified Budget Recommendation to properly fund higher education now and in the future.

Approved: ACHE, 12/13/02